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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE MEETING

Proposed options for the organization of the list of speakers

Note For all of the options listed below, the usual practice by the General Assembly in its general debate will be followed, that is, Heads of State will be accorded first priority, with Vice-Presidents, Crown Princes/Princesses and Heads of Government next, followed by Ministers and Heads of Delegation.

Option 1: In a row (as in General Assembly seating)

Under this option, the President/Secretary-General will draw the name of a Member State from among the entire General Assembly membership, for example, Canada.

Starting from Canada, in alphabetical order as in the General Assembly seating, the next 25 Member States will be placed, according to the category of the country's representation, in the list of speakers for the first meeting, that is, Sunday morning, 22 October 1995. The next 25 Member States will be for the second meeting, Sunday afternoon, and so on until all the Member States are assigned to the six meetings, ending Tuesday afternoon, 24 October 1995.

Option 2: By lottery for choice of number of meeting

Option 2 will allow each Member State to pick by lottery the number of the meeting for its participation. There will be a box containing 185 papers/cards corresponding to the number of slots for each of the six meetings, such as 25 papers/cards containing the number ONE for the first meeting to be held on Sunday morning, 22 October 1995, 25 papers/cards marked TWO for the second meeting on Sunday afternoon, ending with 25 papers/cards containing the number SIX for the last meeting on Tuesday afternoon, 24 October 1995.

The President/Secretary-General will draw the name of the first country as for the General Assembly seating, then in alphabetical order, each country will pick from out of the box one paper/card that would contain the number of the meeting when its representative will speak. All the countries that are slotted for any one of the six meetings will then be placed alphabetically according to the category of the country's representation for that meeting.

Option 3: First come/first served

As discussed at the 22nd meeting of the Committee, on 10 February 1995 (see A/AC.240/1995/L.3).

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE MEETING

List of speakers: time slots for the meetings

Sunday (22 October 1995)		Monday (23 October 1995)				Tuesday (24 October 1995)	
I	II	III		IV		V	VI
AM	PM	AM		PM		AM	PM
1	26	51	76	101	126	136	161
2	27	52	77	102	127	137	162
3	28	53	78	103	128	138	163
4	29	54	79	104	129	139	164
5	30	55	80	105	130	140	165
6	31	56	81	106	131	141	166
7	32	57	82	107	132	142	167
8	33	58	83	108	133	143	168
9	34	59	84	109	134	144	169
10	35	60	85	110	135	145	170
11	36	61	86	111		146	171
12	37	62	87	112		147	172
13	38	63	88	113		148	173
14	39	64	89	114		149	174
15	40	65	90	115		150	175
16	41	66	91	116		151	176
17	42	67	92	117		152	177
18	43	68	93	118		153	178
19	44	69	94	119		154	179
20	45	70	95	120		155	180
21	46	71	96	121		156	181
22	47	72	97	122		157	182
23	48	73	98	123		158	183
24	49	74	99	124		159	184
25	50	75	100	125		160	185

A/AC.240/1995/CRP.5
20 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
23rd meeting
17 March 1995

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

1. It will be recalled that in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 48/215 B of 26 May 1994, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-ninth session on the replies received regarding attendance at the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, in order to enable the Assembly at that session to recommend to the Assembly at its fiftieth session a precise timetable and agenda for the commemorative meeting and a suggested timetable for the conduct of the general debate of the fiftieth session. Pursuant to that request, the Secretariat prepared a note on the status of replies to the Secretary-General's invitation and organization of the special commemorative meeting (A/AC.240/1995/L.2), which was considered by the Preparatory Committee at its 21st meeting, on 2 February 1995.

2. At that meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed that the Chairman would undertake further consultations with regard to the organization of the list of speakers for the special commemorative meeting. Pursuant to that request, a note was prepared by the Chairman on the organization of the list of speakers for the special commemorative meeting (A/AC.240/1995/L.3), and discussed at the 22nd meeting of the Committee, on 10 February 1995.

3. During the discussion of these various papers some important agreements have been reached with regard to the dates of the meeting and the length of speeches. The organization of the list of speakers remains to be agreed upon.

4. Before moving on to the organization of the list of speakers, I should like to recall the following agreements:

(a) Confirmation of the dates of the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly: the dates are confirmed for 22 to 24 October;

(b) Length of speeches: At the 22nd meeting, in summing up the deliberations Ambassador Butler noted that, after much discussion, it had been agreed that the following would be recommended to heads of State and Government:

(i) Oral statements not to exceed five minutes;

(ii) The full written text of any statement prepared for the commemorative session may be circulated in the General Assembly Hall;

(iii) At the conclusion of the commemorative meeting, a book will be compiled, including the full text of all statements;

(c) Participation of observers: I should like to reiterate in this regard that observers will participate in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, namely, they will be inscribed to speak after the list of Member States for that day has been exhausted. In addition, inscriptions for observers will be taken only after all Member States have been inscribed. To date requests have been received from 4 observers, out of a possible total of 23.

It will be recalled that in paragraph 8 of the report of the Preparatory Committee, 1/ it was agreed that the arrangements mentioned in resolution 48/215 B would apply also to Palestine in its capacity as observer. It was further agreed that the same would apply to other observers, if they so requested. This was confirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/12 of 9 November 1994.

5. The following conditions which have been previously discussed with reference to the organization of the meeting should also be recalled:

(a) In accordance with the practice followed in respect of the general debate, at each meeting priority will be given to heads of State followed by vice-presidents and crown princes/princesses, then heads of Government, and then ministers and heads of delegation;

(b) If a head of State or Government is late for his/her time slot, he/she will automatically fall to the last place at the list of heads of State or Government in that session. The same would apply for each other category;

(c) Furthermore, in the event that the level at which the statement will be made is altered subsequent to initial inscription, then the speaker will be transferred to the next available place in the appropriate category;

(d) The first speaker in the commemorative meeting would be the head of State of the host country of the Organization.

6. With regard to the organization of the list of speakers, a number of alternatives have been discussed, none of which meet everyone's complete satisfaction. However, it is imperative that we arrive at a conclusion on this

issue so as to recommend our decision to the General Assembly for appropriate action (as requested in para. 4 of resolution 48/215 B) and therefore allow for the proper planning of this most important meeting both in our capitals and within the Secretariat.

7. On the basis of the discussions held at previous meetings, I have met with members of the Secretariat and have asked them to simulate various scenarios for the Committee to consider. I should like to note in this regard that although it had been previously discussed that deliberations should begin on Sunday afternoon, we have come to the conclusion that the only way to accommodate all speakers is to begin formal deliberations on Sunday morning, thereby adding one additional session to what was previously contemplated. The Interfaith Service previously scheduled for Sunday morning will be rescheduled for Saturday afternoon. With this change, the options presented are based on the following premises:

(a) Time-slot availability, that is, the number of speakers per meeting and per day, calculated on the basis of the agreement on the length of speeches as mentioned above (five minutes per speaker plus one minute for transition from one speaker to another) and the six sessions available: two sessions per day on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday;

(b) Only on Monday should there be a night meeting. On Sunday a dinner by the President of the host country is scheduled. On Tuesday, the meeting should finish with the adoption of the declaration by 6 p.m., prior to the United Nations Day concert;

(c) Regardless of how the list is organized, Member States may exchange dates and positions among themselves.

8. The alternatives which I commend for your consideration are as follows:

(a) Drawing the first speaker from a box of dominoes and continuing alphabetically therefrom;

(b) Drawing lots for the numbers 1 to 6 which would designate the session at which the country would speak;

(c) The procedure discussed at the last meeting where Member States could line up to submit in writing their preferred choices for dates and position on a first come/first served basis.

9. These options are before you in document A/AC.240/1995/CRP.4.

Open meeting for discussion

10. I should like to note that, although the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee had originally been scheduled for 21 April, given the urgency of settling this matter, I will recommend to Ambassador Butler that another meeting be held during the week of 27 March. The time and the date will be communicated in the Journal as soon as they are available. I hope that by that time we all will have had time to reflect on the matter before us.

11. I should also like to inform you that the Drafting Group meeting which was scheduled for next Thursday will now meet on Friday, 24 March at 10 a.m., in the Economic and Social Council chamber.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/49/48).